

Child in Need Meeting

Information for Parents and Carers



What is a Child in Need meeting?

Child in Need meetings are held under Section 17 of the Children Act and are intended to bring together the 'network' around your child(ren). This typically includes the agencies involved with your family, (e.g., the school or health visitor) and any important friends or family members who can support you and your family.

Why is the meeting happening?

The Child and Family Assessment completed with you and your family will have identified that your child(ren) have needs that require additional support and this might be related to their health or development.

This is a meeting to support you and your family. The purpose of the meeting is to develop and review a Child in Need plan for your child(ren). Together, we will agree the kind of support, or people who can help you, in the best interests of the child(ren). Each member of the 'network', whether that is family or an agency, will have their own role and responsibilities in making sure that the agreed Child in Need Plan meets your child's needs in an agreed timescale. **The focus of the plan will be on working with you to help your child/children be safe and happy.**

Key Points to note:

- Speak to your Social Worker if you have any questions about the process or why it is happening. They must keep you informed at every stage of the process, but please work with them to make sure you understand what is happening and also that they understand what you are worried or concerned about – **they are there to support you and your family.**
- There should be no surprises in the meeting and make sure you ask questions if you are not sure about what agencies are saying.
- Think about what you want to get out of the meeting and make a list of the support you feel would help.
- It is very important that you understand what's happening and why, so it is important to listen and don't be afraid to ask questions.

For more information about what happens at a Child in Need meeting or a Child in Need Plan, please scan this QR code:

Or visit the Parents and Carers section of the
Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership website:
www.berkshirewestsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/scp/parents-and-carers

